



## **NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE**

**Miami, Florida 33165**

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### **...May Brought Sudden Return to Wetter Than Normal Conditions...**

#### **...Second Wettest May on Record in West Palm Beach...**

South Florida's weather pattern underwent a sudden reversal during the second week of May, as the high pressure area which dominated the region's weather during much of the dry season was replaced by a low pressure trough in the middle and upper levels of the atmosphere (Figure 1). This pattern reversal, in conjunction with a gradual increase in atmospheric moisture typically associated with the onset of the rainy season, resulted in above to much above normal rainfall over interior and eastern sections of south Florida for the month of May (Figure 2). Many locations recorded May rainfall amounts in excess of 10 inches, including Palm Beach International Airport (15.69 inches), Juno Beach (12.97), LaBelle (11.93 inches), Moore Haven (11.52 inches), Homestead General Airport (11.44 inches), Fort Lauderdale Dixie Water Plant (11.24 inches) and Cooper City (10.31).

This rainfall came on the heels of one of the driest dry seasons on record. In fact, virtually all of south Florida received more rain in May than in the previous six months combined. West Palm Beach recorded its second wettest May on record, with a total of 15.69 inches of rain. The wettest May on record occurred in 1890 when 16.19 inches fell. Moore Haven's 11.52 inches ranks as the third wettest May on record, behind 1923 (11.70 inches) and 1954 (11.96).

Not all of south Florida received copious May rainfall. Portions of the southwest Florida Gulf coast recorded around 4 inches of rain, including Naples with 3.92

inches and Marco Island with 4.35 inches. This was primarily due to a persistent west wind pattern favoring shower and thunderstorm development inland from the Gulf coast which then moved east and away from the immediate coastal areas.

Nevertheless, the return of significant rainfall to most of south Florida meant that the severe to extreme drought conditions experienced during the dry season have all but disappeared.

Below are May rainfall totals, departure from normal and November-April rainfall in inches for select south Florida locations:

<b>Location</b>	<b>May 2009 Rainfall</b>	<b>May Departure From Normal</b>	<b>November 2008-April 2009 Rainfall</b>
Miami Int'l	7.53	2.01	4.66
Fort Lauderdale Int'l	7.80	1.47	4.74
Palm Beach Int'l	15.69	10.30	6.79
Naples Regional	3.92	-0.29	2.31
Miami Beach	7.79	2.89	6.91
Moore Haven	11.52	7.82	3.75

The precipitation outlook for June calls for an equal chance of above or below normal rainfall, with increasing chances for above normal rainfall in July and August. For more information on rainfall totals and water conditions across south Florida, please visit the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office's hydrologic page at [http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/?n=drought\\_info](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/?n=drought_info). For the latest weather conditions, forecasts, warnings, advisories and statements, please visit the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office's web site at <http://www.weather.gov/miami>.

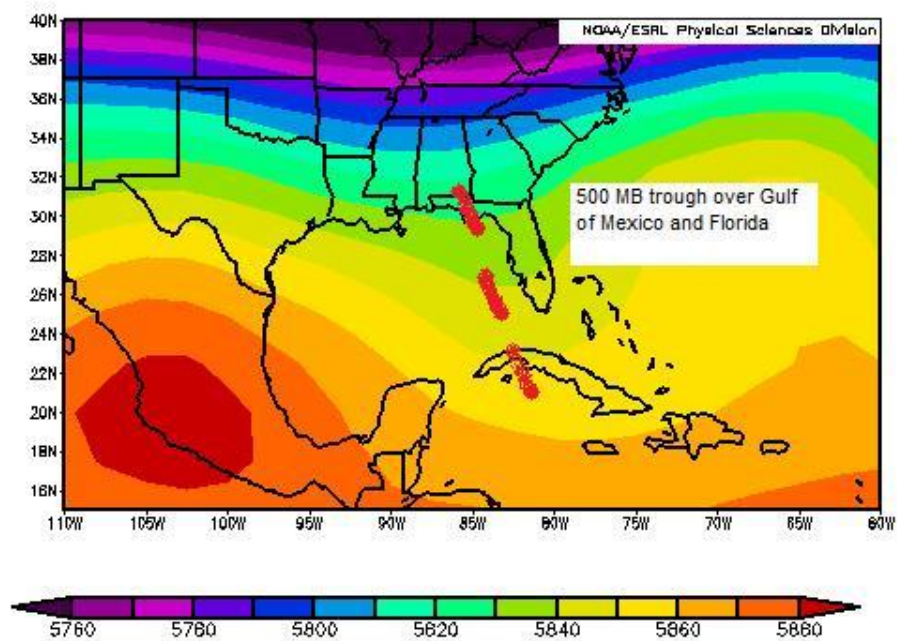


Figure 1: Mean 500 MB Heights - May 2009

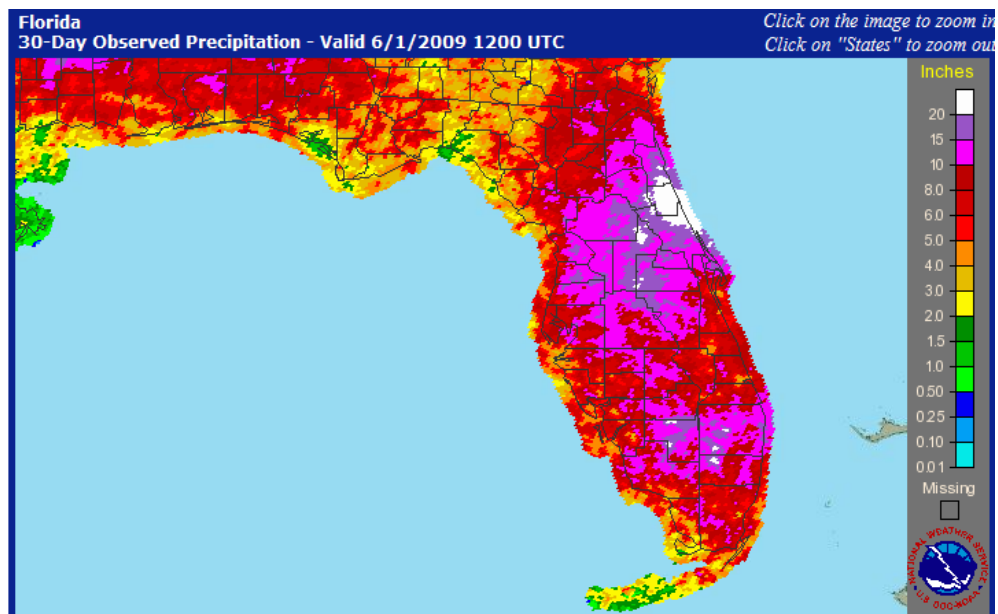


Figure 2: May 2009 Precipitation